

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

The American Women Quarters Program is a new series of coins to be issued through 2025. The series “celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country. The fact that there is a series of coins specific to women is great. It’s a step forward, but let’s not lose sight of the fact that the necessity for the series highlights how history frequently ignores the accomplishments of women, especially women of color.

To the credit of the mint, four of the five women featured are BIPOC:

- Maya Angelou – celebrated writer, performer, and social activist
- Dr. Sally Ride – physicist, astronaut, educator, and first American woman in space
- Wilma Mankiller – first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation
- Nina Otero-Warren – a leader in New Mexico’s suffrage movement and the first female superintendent of Santa Fe public schools
- Anna May Wong – first Chinese American film star in Hollywood

The diversity in this series offers a view of intersectionality; “the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender.” Seeing all oppressed people as having common interest provides a solid foundation for change and counters the oppressors’ desire to draw divisions in order to weaken that foundation.

As great as it is to see women, especially BIPOC, on the reverse of a quarter, George Washington’s image remains on the obverse. His role as a slave owner and as a defender of slavery casts a long shadow over his role in the revolution and as the first president. The complex and troubled history of our country cannot be overcome with single acts such as the issuance of this coin series. This serves as a milepost on a long journey that will not be at an end until equal BIPOC representation on US money becomes an unremarkable commonplace occurrence.

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.

